

Press Release

LLOYD E. LEVINE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Safety Committee Passes “Harley’s Law”

Measure Would Toughen Penalties for Evading Police

SACRAMENTO –The Assembly Committee on Public Safety approved legislation by Assemblymember Lloyd E. Levine (D-Van Nuys) to increase the penalties and fines for attempting to evade the police.

The measure, Assembly Bill 140, “Harley’s Law”, is named for Harley Medellin, a three-week old boy who lost his arm on December 3, 2002 in an accident caused by a sport utility vehicle leading police in a high-speed pursuit.

Following several high profile police pursuits that have led to tragic accidents, Los Angeles City Councilmember Jack Weiss encouraged Assemblymember Levine to introduce the legislation.

“The tragedies caused by police pursuits aren’t the police’s fault, and they’re not the public’s fault. They’re the suspects’ fault. Before they decide to run and risk lives, they need to know that they will serve time for fleeing,” Levine said.

AB 140 will:

Increases the penalty for attempting to evade to an alternate misdemeanor/felony, punishable by up to one year in county jail or 16 months, 2 or 3 years in state prison.

Increases the penalty for the willful or wanton disregard for persons or property while attempting to evade to a felony, punishable by one, two, or three years in state prison.

Increases the penalty for attempting to evade that proximately causes serious bodily injury to another, to a felony, punishable by up four, five, or seven years in state prison; and/or by a fine between \$2,000 to \$15,000.

Increases the penalty for attempting to evade that proximately causes the death of any person, to a felony, punishable by five, seven, or nine years in state prison; and/or by a fine between \$2,000 to \$20,000.

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